THE FOURTH DAY.

24th February 1916.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 24th February 1916.

27. Suggestions for the development of commerce.

Mr. Kanji Vissenji (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that thefts of articles during loading and unloading in the port of Alleppey were frequent and he requested that the Port Officer might be empowered to deal with such cases. Replying to the Dewan, he said that the thefts took place in the sea between the ship and the shore.

He next said that all hindrances to the free development of trade should as far as possible be removed. The bills issued in Mysore and Hyderabad could be cashed in British India without the payment of an additional stamp duty. Similarly, those issued in British India did not require a further stamp duty in those States. In both cases, a Travancore merchant would have to pay double stamp duty, in the first case, while cashed in British India, and in the second, in Travancore. Further, the duty on a bill for Bh. Rs. 5,000 was only Bh. Rs. 4- as. 8 in British India, while for the same bill a stamp duty for S. Rs. 7,500, or Bh. Rs. 6- as. 12, was charged in Travancore. He suggested the desirability of making similar reciprocal arrangements with India, and till that was done, the bill should be taken as one for S. Rs. 5,000 and British stamp duty charged on that amount only.

The improvement of the third and fourth sections of the Commercial Canal should be attended to without delay as all the important trading houses of the town were situated on both sides of those sections. If the work could not be taken in hand at once, he suggested that the canal should at least be deepened immediately so that trade might not suffer. In connection with the improvement of those two sections of the canal, several ghats on both sides of the canal should be constructed for the use of the merchants.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be considered.

28. Amendment of the Tobacco Regulation and the Rules framed thereunder.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar, B. A. (Member, Shencottah taluk) said that the value of the total quantity of tobacco consumed in the State every year was between thirty and forty lakhs of rupees, while the revenue ranged between fifteen and sixteen lakhs. The whole quantity was imported from outside. He suggested that the cultivation of tobacco in the State would be a profitable concern. He was of opinion that the soil in certain portions of the Shencottah taluk was well fitted for the purpose. Less water was required for the cultivation of tobacco than for paddy, and there was the question of the scarcity of water for paddy cultivation in the taluk. It would also pay the cultivator more than paddy cultivation. The experiment had not yet been tried, because the Tobacco Regulation did not permit it. The cost of production would come to only Rs. 50, while the out-turn would be between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 per acre. He therefore requested that the Director of Agriculture might be asked to investigate what lands were fit for tobacco cultivation and what kind of tobacco could be successfully grown there. A supervision staff might be necessary to see that tobacco was not smuggled outside Travancore, and the cultivator might be asked to contribute to it.

The people of the Shencottah taluk were in the habit of using confected tobacco which was sold at a very cheap rate in the adjoining British Indian District. They were not permitted to bring it into Travancore now and consequently the stuff was being every day smuggled into Shencottah. The smuggling could not be prevented by any amount of vigilance on the part of the Excise Department. He therefore requested that confected tobacco might be permitted to be imported into the taluk

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